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PROBABLE ACTION OF FRENCH COUNCIL

- I. Council of Republic expected approve Paris accords:
 - A. Action likely by late February:
 1. Constitutionally, must act by 11 Mar 55.
 - B. Last fall, Mendes-France optimistically predicted 200 of 319 favorable.
 1. Projection Assembly vote would top ^{the absolute maj.} absolute majority (170 over 160).
For 170 Against 104 Abstainers 45
 - C. Actually, simple plurality more likely.
 1. Vote in Assembly had many more abstentions than expected.
 2. With fewer Communists in Council to vote "No", many Senators may abstain and still not risk bill's defeat.
 - D. Paris press says chances passage good.
 1. Rapporteurs for bill in Council--unlike some in Assembly--all

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II. Technically, Council could delay approval

until end June--by amending bill (would automatically force Assembly reconsideration, permit Council delay for 100 days).

However:

A. Council not expected to amend.

B. ~~No reason to expect Council to adopt~~
but could use
This tactic to force
Assembly to rewrite,
dilatatory tactics,

C. But rush by Council also unlikely.

III. Technically, Council could also raise constitutional question, but danger is remote:

A. Under constitutional revision of 30 Nov '54, Council can no longer oblige Assembly to muster an absolute majority in order to override similar majority in Council.

Will Mendes survive possible
North African - Indo China
debate - budget etc